



April 26, 2021

Representative Harriet Drummond  
State Capitol Room 108  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Re: HB 161 and SB 71

Dear Representative Drummond,

The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council fully supports HB161 and SB71, and hopes that you will join them in this effort to ensure that the Alaska State Council on the Arts is able to maximize fundraising efforts connected to the (very popular) Alaska Artistic License Plates.

These two bills allow them to collect the surcharges on the license plates, which helps them provide the legally required match for the funds the State receives from the National Endowment for the Arts. They allow for payments to the plate artists from that fund, clarify that the Attorney General serves as ASCA's legal counsel, and they create an arts & cultural investment fund in statute providing budgetary transparency, and again assisting ASCA in funding its mission.

The bills also clarify ASCA's authority over public art created by the State's % For Art program.

ASCA is a life-line agency for the arts groups and artists around the state. The arts are an important industry in the state, and the support ASCA offers is magnified tremendously as the groups and artists leverage those funds to generate more money for our communities.

These bills are solid steps to helping ensure that ASCA can operate in a stable environment, and continue its important work around the state.

I urge your support.

Thank you for your difficult and hard work for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy DeCherney  
Executive Director

*emailed 4/26/21*



# Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

April 28, 2021

Representative Harriet Drummond  
State Capitol Room 108  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 161 and SB 71

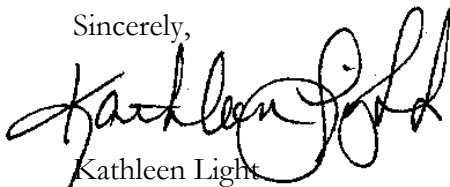
Dear Representative Drummond,

Please accept this letter in full support of HB 161 and SB 71. HB 161 and SB 71 will provide additional resources to the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) to fulfill their mission more efficiently and effectively.

As the only arts council in Ketchikan, the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council relies heavily on the stability, assistance, information, and state-wide connectivity provided by the Alaska State Council on the Art as we support artists, arts organizations and groups, and arts businesses in our area. The arts are a significant industry in Alaska, creating jobs, businesses, and opportunity. In Ketchikan the myriad of programs ASCA offers helps to strengthen and support not only the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council, but our vibrant and growing arts industry.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Light  
Executive Director



4/28/21

Representative Harriet Drummond  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 108  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Drummond,

I am a 44-year Alaska resident who has worked in the arts in Alaska during all those years, and who served on the Alaska State Council on the Arts at the pleasure of eight Alaska Governors between 1983 and 2019. I am writing to thank you for your introduction of and support for HB 161, providing several very straightforward and highly important changes and clarifications that will enable the Alaska State Council on the Arts to even better perform its duties as Alaska's officially designated State Arts Agency.

As Sponsor Statements, Sectional Analysis, and previous testimony in support of the companion bill in the Senate (SB 71) have made clear, HB 161 will enable ASCA to reduce its demand on Undesignated General Funds through a modest charge on its license plates supporting the arts—currently the most popular plate selected by Alaskans. It will give ASCA the right to conduct a statewide competition for a new plate at a time of their discretion every four years or more, and it will provide modest remuneration for the artist whose design is selected. These changes are entirely consistent with ASCA's efforts to reduce its dependence on Undesignated General Funds and maintain this highly visible and successful program.

In a similar way, exclusion from the Executive Budget Act of private foundation funds that have and will in the future be secured by ASCA--currently more than 50% of the agency's operating budget-- will greatly reassure current and future private foundations eager to support ASCA's work, and will help insure the ongoing health of the agency in the future.

The clarification to ASCA's authority to deal with disposition of artworks in State buildings as those buildings age and are replaced is absolutely essential to the long-term preservation of this tremendous cultural resource, and the clarification of ASCA's access to legal counsel is important as well, as we learned in previous distressed budget years.

HB 161 is a cleanly, clearly, effectively constructed bill that provides key clarifications and minor changes consistent with ASCA's continuing ability to effectively do its work for all Alaskans. Thank you again for your introduction of and support for it.

Sincerely,  
Kesler Woodward  
Vice-President, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation  
780 Merlin Lane  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709